

**REMARKS**

By way of this Amendment, claims 30-33 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 14-17, 19 and 21-24 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 14-17, 19 and 21-24 are allowed.

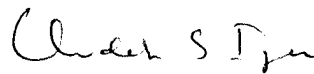
Claims 30-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chang, "Data Resource Selection in Distributed Visual Information Systems", I.E.E.E. Knowledge and Data Engineering, Volume 10, pages: 926-946, November 1998.

The Applicants respectfully cancel the presently rejected claims 30-33. Since there are no other grounds for the rejection of the pending claims, they should be allowed.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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